

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-07 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NSF-01 /065 W

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R 181710Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7046

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652 - N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TGEN, XK, XK, ES

SUBJ: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: STATE 273356 AND RELATED

1. THE AMBASSADOR AND ECONOFF CALLED ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER DR RICARDO CASTANEDA AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MANUEL GUTIERREZ RUIZ DEC 15, AND DELIVERED THE AIDE MEMOIRE (STATE 273355) AND ATTACHMENTS CONCERNING THE STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. DURING THE APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR CALL, WE WERE ABLE TO DISCUSS IN RATHER THOROUGH TERMS THE GENESIS OF THE WORKING GROUP, THE PRESENT APPARENT IMPASSE, AND THE NEED FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION BY EL SALVADOR AND OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. CASTANEDA CONFESSED THAT WITH LIMITED STAFF AND MANY DEMANDS HE HAD NOT GIVEN APPROPRIATE ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE. DURING THE DISCUSSION HE OBSERVED THAT THOSE WHO ARE MOST ACTIVE IN THE WG ARE PROBABLY THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE GONE A LONG WAY TO CLOSING THE DOORS TO THE INFLOW OF TECHNOLOGY VIA FOREIGN INVESTMENT (THE MAJOR SOURCE). CONVERSELY, COUNTRIES

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SUCH AS THE CENTRAL AMERICANS, WHICH MAINTAIN A VIRTUAL OPEN

DOOR

TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT DO NOT PERCEIVE THE SAME NEED TO
CREATE A "PUBLIC SOURCE" TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE MORE DIRECT INFLOW
OF TECHNOLOGY AND HENCE ARE NOT GIVING THE SAME ATTENTION TO
THE WG. (COMMENT: THIS ANALYSIS OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT EXPLAIN THE
HARDLINE POSITION REPORTEDLY TAKEN BY BRAZIL.) THE AMBASSADOR
SUGGESTED THAT EVEN IF THIS BE THE CASE, THE RESULT WILL PROBABLY
BEAR THE STAMP OF ALL LATIN COUNTRIES, AS DID THE "ELEVEN MINIMUM
CONDITIONS" BY THE LATIN CAUCUS, AND IT WOULD THUS BE WELL FOR THOSE
OF EL SALVADOR'S VIEW TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN THE WG. HE AGREED.

2. DR CASTANEDA WAS UNAWARE OF THE CONFRONTATION TACTICS BY THE
LATIN CAUCUS EVIDENCED BY THE "MINIMUM CONDITIONS". (WE SUBSE-
QUENTLY PROVIDED HIM WITH A COPY OF THE ELEVEN "MINIMUM CONDITIONS".)
WHILE HE ADMITTED TO BEING ILL-VERSED CONCERNING THE WG, AND ASKED
FOR TIME TO STUDY ALL AVAILABLE MATERIAL BEFORE GIVING US A
MORE REASONED REPLY, HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS THAT EL SALVADOR COULD
HAVE AN EFFECTIVE VOICE ONLY AS PART OF A COMMON CENTRAL
AMERICAN POSITION AND PARTICIPATION. WE ADVISED HIM OF THE WELL-
REGARDED CONTRIBUTION OF THE CACM'S TECHNICAL INSTITUTION INCAITI
AND HE SAID IT WOULD BE THE LOGICAL INSTITUTION TO FLESH OUT A CA
DELEGATION.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY CONVEYED INFORMATION
CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WG TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY,
URGING MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION, WE REALISTICALLY CANNOT EXPECT
MUCH MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION GIVEN THE GOES' STAFF AND BUDGETARY
LIMITATIONS WHICH HAVE INHIBITED FIELDINGS OF DELEGATES FROM THIS
CAPITAL. THE RESULT OF THIS DISCUSSION OFFERS SOME HOPE THAT
CENTRAL AMERICAN MAY OVERCOME ITS PAST PERFUNCTORY PARTICIPATION
THROUGH RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC STAFF BY FIELDING A CA DELEGATION
WITH ICAITI EXPERTISE. THE PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES WERE QUICKLY
GRASPED BY DR CASTENDA AND THERE EMERGED AN APPARENT CONVERGENCE
OF US/GOES VIEWS. WE SUSPECT THAT MINISTRIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES
WHICH SHARE EL SALVADOR'S POSITION ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT ARE
LIKEWISE ILL-INFORMED CONCERNING THE SANTIAGO PERFORMANCE AND THE
"MINIMUM CONDITIONS." WE WILL PURSUE THIS AND SUPPORT, AS FAR AS
IS APPROPRIATE, THE FRUITION OF THIS IDEA OF CA ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.
CAMPBELL

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